

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 January 2004 (15.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/004934 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B08B 3/10**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2003/000561
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 July 2003 (07.07.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/393,811 8 July 2002 (08.07.2002) US
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **ULTRASONIC CLEANING AND WASHING APPARATUS FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND A METHOD FOR THE USE THEREOF**

(57) **Abstract:** The invention provides a method and an apparatus for washing and cleaning fruits and vegetables. The apparatus has a degassing means (14); a washing tank (26) which accommodates at least one item for cleaning; an ultrasonic means (28); at least one water pumping means (32); a water jetting means (62) for directing a plurality of jets of water towards the at least one cleaning item to halt circulation and motion of water in the washing tank (26) and concurrently to bring the rotation and motion of the at least one cleaning item to halt within the shortest period of time, a holding means (52, 70) to facilitate passage of ultrasonic energy through the water to optimally penetrate the at least one cleaning item immersed therein; and a control means (16) for programming and executing relevant process parameters in the operation of the apparatus.

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